

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) A force-transmission element for an engine compartment having an engine that is displaced in the engine compartment, comprising:

a first impact plate,

a second impact plate having multiple plate parts,

a connecting element interconnecting the multiple plate parts, and

bars arranged between the impact plates to ensure transmission of force between the impact plates,

wherein the connecting element is releasable to permit the plate parts to be pushed apart while the first and second impact plates move toward each other when ~~the severity of~~ an impact force on at least one of the impact plates exceeds a certain limit.

20-21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously presented) The force-transmission element as claimed in claim 19, wherein the connecting element is pyrotechnically releasable.

23. (Previously presented) The force-transmission element as claimed in claim 19, wherein the connecting element is releasable through material failure.

24-25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently amended) ~~The A~~ A force-transmission element ~~as claimed in claim 19,~~ for an engine compartment having an engine that is displaced in the engine compartment, comprising:

a first impact plate,

a second impact plate having multiple plate parts,

a connecting element interconnecting the multiple plate parts, and

bars arranged between the impact plates to ensure transmission of force between the impact plates,

wherein the connecting element is releasable to permit the plate parts to be pushed apart when the severity of an impact on at least one of the impact plates exceeds a certain limit, and

wherein the bars are arranged between the impact plates at acute angles with respect to at least one of the impact plates.

27-30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently amended) ~~The A~~ A force-transmission element ~~as claimed in claim 19,~~ for an engine compartment having an engine that is displaced in the engine compartment, comprising:

a first impact plate,

a second impact plate having multiple plate parts,

a connecting element interconnecting the multiple plate parts, and
bars arranged between the impact plates to ensure transmission of force
between the impact plates,

wherein the connecting element is releasable to permit the plate parts to
be pushed apart when the severity of an impact on at least one of the impact
plates exceeds a certain limit, and

wherein the connecting element is a separating bolt.

32-36. (Canceled)

37. (Previously presented) The force-transmission element as claimed in
claim 26, wherein the connecting element is pyrotechnically releasable.

38. (Previously presented) The force-transmission element as claimed in
claim 26, wherein the connecting element is releasable through material failure.

39. (Currently amended) ~~The A~~ force-transmission element as claimed in
~~claim 19,~~ for an engine compartment having an engine that is displaced in the
engine compartment, comprising:

a first impact plate,
a second impact plate having multiple plate parts,
a connecting element interconnecting the multiple plate parts, and
bars arranged between the impact plates to ensure transmission of force
between the impact plates,

wherein the connecting element is releasable to permit the plate parts to be pushed apart when the severity of an impact on at least one of the impact plates exceeds a certain limit, and

wherein the first and second impact plates are pushed ~~together~~ toward each other upon release of the connecting element.